



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly, Resources Chairman George Arthur reassure Gallup mayor Nation still committed to Navajo-Gallup pipeline

*Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr.,
to testify Wednesday before Senate*

GALLUP, N.M. – Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly and Navajo Resources Committee Chairman George Arthur have reassured Gallup Mayor Harry Mendoza that the Navajo Nation remains committed to helping the city find a reliable source of water.

“The Navajo Nation is committed to the San Juan River Settlement Agreement which includes the Navajo-Gallup Water supply Project,” Vice President Shelly said today at a meeting at the Mayor’s office.

He emphasized that the Navajo Nation Council approved the San Juan River Settlement Agreement, which includes the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, by a vote of 62-to-18 in December 2004.

Mr. Arthur clarified that a recent disapproval of the Navajo Nation’s memorandum of understanding with the city was because of stipulations that required a source of water to be identified prior to approval of Senate Bill 1171 – the Northwest New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act.

“As far as Navajo is concerned, there is a misconception that Gallup would not receive water,” Mr. Arthur said. “No statement like that was ever made. We have understood that there is a need for water for Gallup, and we would help find a way to get Gallup water.”

“It was understood, through prior meetings with city officials and various community leaders, that Gallup does need a source (of water) and that Gallup would seek out various avenues to identify a source of water,” Mr. Arthur said.

“We understand that there is a need for water for Gallup and we have committed to help find a way to get Gallup water.” As far as the Nation is concerned, he said, the 2004 settlement agreement is in place.



Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly meets with Gallup Mayor Harry Mendoza to re-emphasize the Navajo Nation’s support of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

“The MOU is a small bump on the highway,” he said.

On Wednesday, President Shirley will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C., on Senate Bill 1171 –the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act.

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